

**Political Science 597.02**  
**Political Problems of the Contemporary World:**  
**Nation-Building in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**  
**Summer Quarter, 2006**

**Monday & Wednesday 1:30 PM – 3:18 PM**

Room: 120 Caldwell Laboratory (CL)

Instructor: M. J. Reese

Office: 2043 Derby Hall (DB)

Office Hours: M 3:30pm–4:30pm

W 12:20pm–1:20pm

*or by appointment*

E-mail: reese.150@osu.edu

**Course Description**

Political Problems of the Contemporary World: Nation-Building in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is an advanced undergraduate course in Comparative Politics. In this course, we will wrestle with some of the key challenges facing many societies in the so-called developing world. Exactly what do we mean by “developing world”? What is a developed modern society? Why does so much of the world fall short? How can they be brought to modernity? Perhaps more controversially, *should* they want to meet current standards of modernity? In pursuit of these questions, this course will unfold in two parts.

In the first half of the course, we will deal with the “nation-state” problem. Why does so much of the world have a difficult time establishing stable polities? In this portion of the course, we will discuss the concept of the “state” in detail and its evolution into the modern era. We will then turn to the crucial question of national identity and its role in political stability. In the process, we will discuss some of the numerous challenges facing the modern nation-state system.

In the second half of the course, we will turn to an examination of the norm of “liberal democratic capitalism” that has taken root as the predominant ethos of the modern world. Has the end verdict of history been rendered? Or have previous declarations of a “New World Order” been premature? In this section, we will discuss the process and challenges behind building a democratic government in a developing society. We will also discuss the globalizing world economy that, while providing salvation to some societies, has sown instability in others.

The focus of this course will be to provide the necessary theoretical and analytical background for students to critically examine and interpret political events in the developing world – events certain to figure prominently in both global and local politics for the next 100 years.

**Readings**

There is one required book for this course. The book should be available at the University Bookstore, Local Booksellers (Long’s, SBX, etc.) and Internet bookstores such as at Amazon.com, Half.com, Barnesnoble.com, and the like. I highly suggest you attempt to find the book online as you will likely find the best prices there. However, you are responsible for

performing the required readings on time – no leeway will be given to compensate for shipping delays.

Kesselman, Mark and Joel Krieger (2006). *Readings in Comparative Politics: Political Challenges and Changing Agendas*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin.  
**ISBN: 0-618-42625-6**

In addition, there will be **thirteen** additional readings that you will be asked to access at your own convenience via the OSU electronic reserve system. You can access, download, and/or print the included readings (in .pdf form) on any on-campus or off-campus computer with Internet access. To access these files, employ the following steps:

1. Go to the Ohio State Libraries website ([www.lib.ohio-state.edu](http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu)).
2. Click on “Reserves by Course” entry in the Quicklinks list
3. On the next screen, enter “Political Science 597.02” into the dialog box.
4. On the next screen, select “Political Science 597 02 E Reserves”
5. On the next screen, select “Reese, Michael”
6. On the next screen, select the underlined “Electronic Reserves for Political Science 597.02” in the Title box.
7. Finally, click on the desired reading to access the corresponding .pdf file.

Also, it is highly suggested that you get in the habit of monitoring the international news. While I personally prefer *The Economist* ([www.economist.com](http://www.economist.com)), other reputable publications such as the *New York Times* ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)) or *Newsweek* ([www.newsweek.com](http://www.newsweek.com)), among others, will suffice. Connecting current events to the material presented in this course, while not strictly required, is the surest way to achieve high grades in exams.

### **The Determination of Grades**

The final course grade will be determined by weighting your performance in five areas:

<b>1. In-Class Participation</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>2. Midterm Exam</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>3. Term Paper</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>4. In-Class Presentation of Term Paper</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>5. Final Exam</b>	<b><u>30%</u></b>
<b>FINAL GRADE</b>	<b>100%</b>

My grading scale for the quizzes, exams, and final course grades is as follows:

<b>A</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>100% - 92%</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>80% - 78%</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>92% - 90%</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>78% - 72%</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>90% - 88%</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>72% - 70%</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>88% - 82%</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>70% - 68%</b>
<b>B-</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>82% - 80%</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>68% - 60%</b>
		<b>E (also known as “F”)</b>	<b>=</b>		<b>Less than 60%</b>

## **GEC-Mandated Goals & Objectives for this Course**

### **Political Science 597.02: Capstone Experiences**

#### **Goals/Rationale:**

Thematic upper-division course work, drawing upon multiple disciplines, enriches students' experiences of the contemporary world.

#### **Learning Objectives:**

1. Students synthesize and apply knowledge from diverse disciplines to contemporary issues.
2. Students write about or conduct research on the contemporary world.

## **Student Responsibilities**

#### **Attendance & Participation:**

This course will combine lectures with opportunities for students to react to and debate each topic. This course will therefore require your active participation. As a result, you are expected to attend every class session. Also, you are expected to provide input on a regular basis to class discussion (this participation will have an impact on your final course grade). To assist in your preparations, I have included some questions for you to ponder before each class session while you perform your readings (these questions can be found in the "Course Schedule" portion of this syllabus). If you do happen to miss a class session, you will still be held responsible for the material covered. It is up to you to acquire notes from a classmate. This is important because we sometimes cover material in class not contained in the assigned reading. You may therefore miss something crucial for passing an exam if you do not make the necessary arrangements. However, it is obviously in your interest to attend class on the days tests are administered. You will be allowed to take a make-up exam only if you present me with a documented excuse for your absence on the day of administration. In cases of illness, for instance, a documented excuse would consist of a signed note from your doctor or the OSU Medical Center.

#### **Reading:**

You will be asked to complete a reading assignment in preparation for each lecture. Ideally, you are to complete this reading *before* each class begins. Please try to perform the readings in the order listed in the "Course Schedule" portion of your syllabus (there usually is a reason behind the ordering). It is important to keep up with this reading. Getting too far behind is a recipe for doing badly in class discussion and on exams. I cannot emphasize enough that although we will not discuss everything in class covered in your readings you will be expected to answer exam questions that may involve these reading-only points and issues (i.e. merely showing up for class will *not* be enough to do well in this course).

**Term Paper:**

You will be asked to complete a 12-15 page typed term paper (12-point font, 1 inch margins, double spaced) discussing the “nation-building” efforts of a country of your choosing. At the beginning of the second week (June 26<sup>th</sup>), I will distribute a handout to provide you with some paper ideas and further guidelines. You will be expected to turn in a brief (less than 1 page) proposal of your planned paper topic one week later on **Monday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>**. One month later, during the week of August 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, you will present your research to the class as a whole (in a 6-8 minute presentation). Your final paper, which must be submitted by **3pm on Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup>**. Unless you have a legitimate documented excuse that has been approved by me *before* that deadline has passed, every calendar day the paper is late will result in a full letter grade deduction (10 points) on your term paper score.

**Exams:**

There will be two *closed book* exams held during this course: a midterm and a final exam. Each exam will be structured similarly with an “identification of terms” section and an “essay” section. One week before each exam, I will hand out a study guide to assist you in your preparations. If you know the guide well, you should do well on the exam. We shall discuss the exams more as they draw closer.

**Communication with Your Instructor:**

I encourage every student to feel free to contact me with any problems, concerns, or questions about the course. I am easiest to contact via e-mail ([reese.150@osu.edu](mailto:reese.150@osu.edu)) which I do check with religious regularity. I will make myself available every week for regular office hours (Monday 3:30-4:30 and Wednesday 12:20-1:20) and will also be available for additional meetings by appointment if you have other obligations during these regular hours. If you do wish to make an appointment to meet outside of my regularly scheduled office hours, I request that you give me at least 24 hours notice to make sure I can accommodate you.

It is unfortunate that many students wait until finals week to contact me about their performance. If you run into problems with the course material, or are not achieving the grades you believe yourself capable of, please contact me sooner rather than later. If you wait too long, you may have little or no opportunity to turn your performance around and achieve the A grade I know each of you are capable of.

**Academic Honesty:**

I expect all of the work you do in this course to be your own. I will tolerate absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else’s words or ideas without proper citation). I will report any cases of cheating or plagiarism to the university committee on academic misconduct, and they will be handled according to university policy.

## **Disability:**

If you need accommodation based on the impact of a disability, it is your responsibility to contact me no later than July 7<sup>th</sup> to schedule an appointment. At the appointment we can discuss the course format, anticipate your needs, and explore potential accommodations. I rely on the Office for Disability Services for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. If you have not previously contacted the Office for Disability Services, I encourage you to do so.

## **Course Schedule**

**June**            19        **Introduction**

21        **Development: What is it and why has it been difficult?**

*Questions to Think About for Today:*

- *What does it mean to be modern?*
- *Should modernity be desired?*
- *How has the world changed in the past 100 years?*

Read: - Lerner, D. "The Grocer and the Chief" in *The Passing of Traditional Society* (1967). **(On Electronic Reserve)**

## ***THE STATE AND THE NATION: POLITICAL NECESSITIES OR RELICS?***

26        **The Emergence and Evolution of the "State"**

*Questions to Think About for Today:*

- *What are the most basic functions of a state?*
- *How did the first states emerge?*
- *Are states necessary?*

Read: - Tilly, C. "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime" (Chapter 2.1 in Kesselman & Krieger)

- Tilly, C. "Western State-Making and Theories of Political Transformation" in *The Formation of National States in Western Europe* (1975). **(On Electronic Reserve)**

28      **The Importance of the Modern State**

*Questions to Think About for Today:*

- *Can other organizations “replace” the state?*
- *In what ways do states depend on each other?*
- *Do states direct, or reflect, society?*

Read: - Anderson, L. “The State in the Middle East and North Africa” in *The Journal of Comparative Politics* (1987). **(On Electronic Reserve)**

- Rotberg, R. “Failed States in a World of Terror” (Chapter 2.5 in Kesselman & Krieger)

- Annan, K. “The Role of the State in the Age of Globalization” in *The Globalization Reader* (2004). **(On Electronic Reserve)**

July                      3      **Challenges to the State**

**\*\*\*\*\*Term Paper Proposals Due at the Beginning of Class Today\*\*\*\*\***

*Questions to Think About for Today:*

- *Would it be preferable for more “global” organizations to replace more local “states”?*
- *Is the globalization of politics a beneficial thing?*
- *Has the modern state actually lost any of its influence at all?*

Read: - van Creveld, M. “The Fate of the State” (Chapter 2.4 in Kesselman & Krieger)

- Gunther, R. “The Political Institutions of the European Union” in *European Unification* (1995). **(On Electronic Reserve)**

- Mathews, J. “Power Shift” in *The Globalization Reader* (2004). **(On Electronic Reserve)**

- Sassen, S. “The State and Globalization” (Chapter 2.6 in Kesselman & Krieger)

## 5 National Identity and the State

*Questions to Think About for Today:*

- *What exactly is a nation? How would you know when you saw one?*
- *What functions do national identities play in states?*
- *Are nations natural? Or are they invented?*

Read: - Connor, W. "A Nation is a Nation, Is a State, Is an Ethnic Group, Is a..." (Chapter 5.5 in Kesselman & Krieger)

- Smith, A. "The Ethnic Basis of National Identity" in *National Identity* (1991). **(On Electronic Reserve)**

- Smith, A. "The Rise of Nations" in *National Identity* (1991). **(On Electronic Reserve)**

## 10 The Construction and Destruction of National Identities

*Questions to Think About for Today:*

- *How are nations "born"?*
- *How can the "childhood" of a nation impact its nature later on?*
- *How static or dynamic are nations? Are they fixed? Or do they change?*

Read: - Smith, A. "Separatism and Multi-Nationalism" in *National Identity* (1991). **(On Electronic Reserve)**

- Marx, A. "Making Race and Nation" (Chapter 2.2 in Kesselman & Krieger)

- Benhabib, S. "The Claims of Culture" (Chapter 5.2 in Kesselman & Krieger)

12      **Change in the Nature of Political Identity in the Modern World**

*Questions to Think About for Today:*

- *Should the world fight, or embrace, the use of national identities in politics?*
- *What forms of identity have become more significant in recent years?*
- *Will, or can, national identity be replaced by an alternative?*

Read: - Smith, A. "Beyond National Identity?" in *National Identity* (1991). **(On Electronic Reserve)**

- Winant, H. "Race in the Twenty-First Century" (Chapter 5.5 in Kesselman & Krieger)
- Huntington, S. "The Clash of Civilizations?" (Chapter 1.2 in Kesselman & Krieger)
- Nasr, V. "Lessons from the Muslim World" (Chapter 5.6 in Kesselman & Krieger)
- Tarrow, S. "A Movement Society?" (Chapter 7.3 in Kesselman & Krieger)

17      **Catch-Up Day & Exam Review**

**Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> \*\*\*\*\*MIDTERM EXAM\*\*\*\*\***

The exam will held at the regular class time & location

***DEMOCRACY AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMY: HAS HISTORY ENDED?***

24      **What is Democracy?**

*Questions to Think About for Today:*

- *What exactly makes a state a democracy?*
- *How does the design of a democracy impact how they function?*
- *How involved should the general public be in the day to-day operations of the state?*

- Read: - Fukuyama, F. “The End of History?” (Chapter 1.1 in Kesselman & Krieger)
- Dahl, R. “Polyarchy” (Chapter 4.1 in Kesselman & Krieger)
  - Schmitter, P. and T. L. Karl “What Democracy Is...and is Not” (Chapter 4.2 in Kesselman & Krieger)
  - Putnam, R. “Bowling Alone” (Chapter 7.4 in Kesselman & Krieger)
  - Stepan A. with C. Skach “Constitutional Frameworks and Democratic Consolidation” (Chapter 6.1 in Kesselman & Krieger)

26     **Democratization: Establishing Democratic Governance**

*Questions to Think About for Today:*

- *What challenges have to be overcome for a democracy to be born?*
- *What kinds of things can “kill” a young democracy?*
- *Is a democracy ever safe? When can one say a democracy is “established”?*

- Read: - Reilly, B. “Electoral Systems for Divided Societies” (Chapter 6.3 in Kesselman & Krieger)
- Linz, J. and A. Stepan “Toward Consolidated Democracies” (Chapter 4.4 in Kesselman & Krieger)
  - Bunce, V. “Rethinking Democratization” (Chapter 4.5 in Kesselman & Krieger)
  - Norris, P. and R. Inglehardt “Cultural Obstacles to Equal Representation” (Chapter 5.1 in Kesselman & Krieger)
  - Mansfield, E. and J. Snyder “Democratic Transitions, Institutional Strength, and War” (Chapter 6.2 in Kesselman & Krieger)

31     Has Democracy “Won”?

*Questions to Think About for Today:*

- *How do economic realities impact democracy?*
- *How can culture impede democracy?*
- *Are non-liberal forms of democracy really inferior to the liberal version?*

Read: - Przeworski, A. and M. Wallerstein “Democratic Capitalism at the Crossroads” (Chapter 7.2 in Kesselman & Krieger)

- Sen, A. “Democracy as a Universal Value” (Chapter 4.3 in Kesselman & Krieger)

- O’Donnell, G. “Illusions About Consolidation” (Chapter 4.6 in Kesselman & Krieger)

- Zakaria, F. “The Future of Freedom” (Chapter 7.5 in Kesselman & Krieger)

- Levitsky, S. and L. Way “The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism” (Chapter 2.3 in Kesselman & Krieger)

August     2     Globalization

*Questions to Think About for Today:*

- *How deeply are politics and economics intertwined?*
- *What are the key differences in how capitalism is practiced in different regions of the world?*
- *How has globalization changed how states interact with one another?*

Read: - Gourevitch, P. “Political Economy” (Chapter 3.1 in Kesselman & Krieger)

- Coates, D. “Models of Capitalism in the new World Order” (Chapter 3.3 in Kesselman & Krieger)

-Keohane, R. and J. Nye “Realism and Complex Interdependence” in *The Globalization Reader* (2004). **(On Electronic Reserve)**

7      **TERM PAPER PRESENTATIONS DAY 1**

9      **TERM PAPER PRESENTATIONS DAY 2**

**Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup> \*\*\*\*\*TERM PAPER DUE AT 3PM\*\*\*\*\***

14     **Development in the Global Economy**

*Questions to Think About for Today:*

- *What role do states play in economic development in the globalization era?*
- *How does the presence of democracy help and/or hurt development?*
- *What challenges do leaders in developing states face that leaders in developed states do not?*

Read: - Johnson, C. "Political Institutions and Economic Performance" in *The Political Economy of the New Asian Industrialism* (1987). **(On Electronic Reserve)**

- Sen, A. "The Importance of Democracy" (Chapter 3.2 in Kesselman & Krieger)

- Treisman, D. "Stabilization Tactics in Latin America" (Chapter 3.4 in Kesselman & Krieger)

- Ross, R. J. S. and A. Chan "From North-South to South-South" (Chapter 3.5 in Kesselman & Krieger)

16      **Globalization and its Discontents**

*Questions to Think About for Today:*

- *Is the deck impossibly stacked against the successful development of the so-called South?*
- *How does globalization threaten local culture?*
- *How, if at all, can the harmful effects of globalization be mitigated?*

Read: - Gray, J. “From the Great Transformation to the Global Free Market” in *The Globalization Reader* (2004).  
**(On Electronic Reserve)**

- Barber, B. “Jihad vs. McWorld” (Chapter 1.3 in Kesselman & Krieger)

- Stiglitz, J. “Globalism’s Discontents” (Chapter 3.6 in Kesselman & Krieger)

-McKibben, B. “An Alternative to Progress” (Chapter 7.6 in Kesselman & Krieger)

21      **Course Wrap-up & Final Exam Review**

Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup>

\*\*\*\*\***FINAL EXAM**\*\*\*\*\*  
**THE FINAL WILL BE HELD FROM 3:30 PM –  
5:18 PM AT THE REGULAR CLASS LOCATION**